

TRIBUTE TO PUBLISHER W.M.
"BILL" STEWART

Mr. HEFLIN. Madam President, publisher William Mathews "Bill" Stewart passed away on January 21 at the age of 74. A noted newspaperman in the State of Alabama for many years, Bill had been the owner of the Monroe Journal and a Monroeville, AL radio station.

Bill bought the Journal in 1947, and in 1952 started radio station WMFC. He also established WBCA radio in Bay Minette, AL. Since 1958, he and his family owned the paper and the radio station. He remained editor of the paper until 1989 and was active in its management until very recently. He also owned papers in Bay Minette, Brewton, Camden, and Jackson, AL.

A native of Autaugaville, Bill was a former president of the Alabama Press Association and the American Newspaper Representatives, an advertising agency. He earned his degree in journalism at the University of Alabama, was a reporter at the Huntsville Times, and served in the Army during World War II.

Bill was also active in his local community. He was a past president of the Monroeville Chamber of Commerce and the Monroeville Kiwanis Club, and an organizer of the Monroe Country United Way. He was also a Sunday school teacher. The Kiwanis Club named him "Man of the Year" in 1996 and "Citizen of the Year" in 1990. He devoted most of life to bringing information to the people in his region of the State.

Bill Stewart was totally committed to his profession and to serving his community through the written and spoken word. He truly understood the power of information and the importance of communication. He was known in the community as a leader dedicated to making his hometown the best place in the world in which to live. He was warm and friendly, and the depth of his compassion for people was reflected through his employment of the disabled. His demeanor was always that of a true gentleman.

Bill's quiet and calm leadership helped lead Monroeville through the social changes of the last 35 years. It is never easy being the publisher of a small-town newspaper, but he was more willing than most to sacrifice popularity for his conscience. He was referred to by his minister as a "tower of righteousness and integrity."

Bill Stewart will be greatly missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing him over the years. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Carolyn Hall Steward, and her entire family in the wake of this tremendous loss.

I ask unanimous consent that an editorial from the Mobile Register commenting on the life and career of Bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Mobile Register, Jan. 24, 1995]

BILL STEWART: EDITOR, LEADER

William M. "Bill" Stewart made his money and his reputation the old-fashioned way. He earned them.

When his family and friends said farewell to the long-time newspaperman Monday in a Monroeville cemetery, they saluted the former publisher of the Monroeville Journal for his contributions to the newspaper profession—contributions that began at the University of Alabama, where he earned his journalism degree. From an early stint in daily journalism at the Huntsville Times, he went on to discover his real love: community newspapers.

Bill Stewart's ensuing achievements were many. He was a former president of the Alabama Press Association, where he championed the rights of the state's newspapers large and small. For a time, he also headed the American Newspaper Representatives, a national advertising service. He had owned or been a partner in newspapers in Bay Minette, Jackson, Camden and Brewton, and he helped found two radio stations, including WMFC in Monroeville, which his family continues to own.

But it was his ownership of the Monroe Journal for which Bill Stewart was best known. He bought the paper in 1947 with a partner from Bay Minette, Jimmy Faulkner, and acquired sole ownership of it 11 years later. Devotion to reporting the news of Monroeville and its surrounding rural communities was his hallmark.

One notable writer who passed through the Journal's newsroom was syndicated columnist Rheta Grimsley Johnson, who now writes for the Atlanta Constitution and United Feature Syndicates. She worked in Monroeville in 1975, by which time Mr. Stewart's son and daughter-in-law were operating the newspaper. Ms. Johnson, who occasionally writes about her days as a young reporter in South Alabama, recently remembered the paper as "a model weekly" that was devoted to and in touch with its readers.

"And that doesn't come easy," Ms. Johnson said. "It's certainly the cleanest newspaper. There's never a typo in the Monroe Journal; if there is, heads will roll."

Today, Bill Stewart's sons Steve and David own and operate the newspaper and radio station. Until their father's death from complications of Parkinson's disease, however, he had maintained a vigorous interest in the family's businesses.

It is doubtlessly safe to predict that residents of Monroe County can count on the sons, who have won journalistic accolades in their own right, to carry on the senior Mr. Stewart's commitment to community journalism.

BASEBALL

Mr. DOLE. Madam President, I will just take a second. I need to testify on another matter, but I want to say a word about baseball.

Mr. BRADLEY. Baseball?

Mr. DOLE. Not basketball, baseball. I note the distinguished Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BRADLEY. Madam President, will the majority leader yield? He said he wanted to make a statement about baseball?

Mr. DOLE. Baseball.

Mr. BRADLEY. Not basketball.

Mr. DOLE. I would be happy to make a statement about basketball, football, hockey—

Mr. BRADLEY. The national sport.

Mr. DOLE. I thank my colleague from New Jersey, one of the great players of all time.

Madam President, for nearly 6 months now, baseball fans all across America have patiently stood by watching the transformation of our Nation's pastime into a crass tug-of-war over money.

Multimillion-dollar players and multimillion-dollar owners have argued, haggled, argued some more, and ultimately deprived the American people of one of the most exciting seasons in recent memory.

After 179 days of confrontation, the players and the owners must now put aside their differences and find common ground. Not tomorrow. Not 2 weeks from now. But today: Tuesday, February 7. There is simply no more sand left in the negotiating hourglass. The integrity of the institution of baseball is far more important than anyone's bottom line.

With that said, let me be crystal clear on one important point: Neither party—player nor owner—should be looking to Congress for any magic solutions. The magic solution can only be found at the bargaining table.

If, for some reason, the players and owners cannot reach an agreement today, then they should do the next best thing—which is to voluntarily accept whatever settlement special mediator Bill Usery may propose. If it is good enough for Bill Usery, I am confident it is good enough for baseball.

Here is a man who has had long experience, he has worked tirelessly on this matter as he has done successfully in many other areas. He said this is the toughest he has ever negotiated.

But I would just say again, today is the day. We do not have any magic wand up here. Congress cannot solve these things if they cannot be solved in negotiations. So if everything else fails, my advice would be, before 3 p.m. today, they accept the efforts of the negotiator, Bill Usery.

I thank my colleagues and I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I appreciate the remarks of our distinguished majority leader. I hope his remarks are taken very seriously by all concerned. We need to resolve this matter very much.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, today, President Clinton announced an important and innovative new \$1 billion immigration initiative to address the problems of illegal immigration. This initiative represents a coordinated new approach by the Immigration Service, the Customs Service, and the Labor Department to confront this problem head-on, and to do so in ways which protect the rights of law-abiding Americans and legal immigrants.